

THE ALMA RECORD.

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ALMA, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 18, 1915

WHOLE NUMBER 1879

ORATORICAL CONTEST

Local High School Orators to Meet Monday, March 22, 2:45 P. M.

WILL REPRESENT ALMA

Winner Will Enter Sub-District Contest At Elsie April Ninth

An oratorical contest for high school students will be held in the auditorium of the high school building on Monday afternoon, March 22, at two forty-five. This contest is held for the purpose of choosing an orator to represent Alma High School at the sub-district contest of the Michigan Oratorical association which will be held at Elsie, Clinton Co., on April 9th.

There are five contestants on the program for next Monday afternoon: Donald Blaisdell, Carl DeWitt, Esther Horton, Cathryn Shell-hass and E. Helen Tann. They have been working zealously for some weeks in the preparation of these orations and they will put into this contest an enthusiasm and spirit that will make it well worth attending.

The declamation contests, already held, were enjoyed by a number of the friends and patrons of the school and is the desire of those in charge that parents and friends make it a point to attend the contest next Monday afternoon. These youthful orators need and deserve the inspiration of their friends in the community as much as do the athletes in athletic contests.

An admission fee of five cents will be charged to obtain a fund with which to pay the expenses of the winner at the sub-district contest and, it is hoped in the district and state contests as well.

The judges will be, Miss Cora Dunlap, Mr. Hiram Moore and Rev. Frank Jackson.

COUNTY BEAN GROWERS ORGANIZE

A county organization for the bean growers was effected at Ithaca last Monday and the following officers were elected: President, C. A. Dibble; Vice President, A. T. Dibble; Secretary and Treasurer, J. B. Miller. For their respective townships as members of the executive board and crop reporters the following were named: Lewis Marion, Frank Howes, W. P. Groesbeck, F. L. Cook, Jesse Walker, L. C. Hull, E. H. Redmond, J. A. Helman, G. R. Aldrich, Burt Muscott, Ira Moody, W. C. Malory, I. N. Cowdry.

BOTH ENTERTAINED

Men's Societies of College Entertained by Affiliated Girls' Societies

Last Saturday evening a double entertainment was held in the society rooms at Wright Hall when the members of the Alpha Theta literary society entertained the members of their affiliated society, Zeta Sigma, and the Phi Kappa Phi society. The members of the two latter societies spent a most delightful social evening. The Zeta Sigma boys gave a literary program for the benefit of the Alpha Theta girls. Splendid papers were read by Alfred Papworth and Thomas Blaisdell, while talks and readings were given by Rudolph Beyer, Chester Robinson, Bryson McCloy and John Ludwig. Fruit salad and coffee were served by the hostesses of the evening, Miss Camellia Waite acted in the capacity of chaperone.

Frank Rudick, Joseph Sartor and C. F. Brown, attended the annual convention of the Michigan Press Association held at Grand Rapids last Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Prominent newspaper men from all over the state and Western states were present and several gave instructive talks and papers on various branches of newspaper work and job printing. E. J. McCall, publisher of the Mt. Pleasant Times, was re-elected treasurer of the organization for the coming year.

ALMA GETS NEW BANK BUILDING

First State Bank Lets Contract For New Home

As early as this week if the weather permits the ground will be broken in the open court just west of the Wright House and work will begin on the construction of the new building for the First State Bank. Last Thursday afternoon the contract was signed by the bank officials and representatives of the Koopke Bros. of Flint for a building forty-four by fifty-five feet, two stories high. It will be so placed in the open court that there will be an open space all around the building. The work is to be completed by the first of September and when the building is finished it will be the only one in Gratiot county which is devoted exclusively to banking purposes. The First State is the last one of the large banks of the county to build new buildings for their banking business.

On the first floor will be a lobby fourteen by twenty-two feet which will be on the left side of the room, the work room of the bank being on the right as one enters. There will be several smaller rooms including two eight by twelve rooms, one for a writing room and one for private business transactions, two eight feet rooms, one for men and one for women, both with toilets.

Instead of the three glass windows which are in the old building for the transaction of business with customers there will be six of the same sort in the new building. Directly above the large front room will be a beautiful sky light. Above the front room and the lobby there will be on second story, giving the

room a high ceiling, thus easily ventilated. Specifications call for a fine large room which in season will be called Agricultural Room and will be used for the display of corn, wheat, and specimens of other farm products.

The directors' room will be on the second floor above the back of the building. This will be one of the finest rooms in the building. Six glass windows will look down upon the lobby.

The bank building will have the best ventilating system to be had and will be heated by what is known as the "direct indirect" system. There will be little marble work except for the marble slabs which will be placed along the walls next to the floor. In the lobby the floors will be laid with tile. In the other rooms yellow pine and oak will be used for floors.

There will be two vaults, one for the use of the customers of the bank for their safety deposit boxes and the other for the safe keeping of the bank's monies. Twenty inch reinforced concrete walls will be built for the vaults. Massive burglar proof doors will further protect the property which the vaults hold. The latest and safest modern locking devices will be used.

The First State Bank is to be congratulated upon the step they have taken which will give them one of the finest banking houses in Central Michigan and will help to give Alma the best banking facilities in the State.

REVIVAL SERVICES

Large Crowds Attend Tabernacle Every Night.

The great Union meeting in the Tabernacle under the leadership of E. P. Loose is attracting wide attention. More than four hundred people have already come forward and the community is stirred as it never has been.

Mr. Loose is an eloquent speaker, his impassioned appeals are finding their way into the hearts and consciences of many. He puts every bit of strength he possesses into his sermons and holds the close attention of the large audiences which greet him from night to night.

The huge Chorus choir under the direction of Prof. Haldor Lilienas is doing excellent work. Their music is one of the attractions of the campaign.

Last Thursday night was High School Night. Alma "High" came out with a fine representation and many of them lined up for the better life. During the evening they sang a song composed by Mr. Lilienas especially for them.

Friday night was Alma College Night. Special music was furnished by the College students, a large number of whom lined up for Christ.

Sunday afternoon Evangelist Loose spoke to a crowded house of men only. His address held the closest attention of the vast audience to the very end and it is safe to say that most of the men will be there to hear him again next Sunday when he gives another address on the same subject.

Sunday night at seven found the Tabernacle crowded to the doors with many standing in the aisles. The big Chorus Choir sang among other songs the great chorus piece "All Hail Immanuel." Evangelist Loose preached and at the close of the invitation it was found that over eighty had come forward to accept Christ.

Monday night the Tabernacle was

HIGH SCHOOL HONORED

Put on Three Year Accredited List By U. of M. Authorities

Several weeks ago an inspector from the University of Michigan visited the local high school making a thorough examination of courses of study and methods of instruction. As a result of this inspection Supt. A. F. Schulz has just received word that the Alma high school will be continued on the accredited list of schools for a period of three years. High schools are placed on the list for periods of one, two and three years, depending on their efficiency. This simply demonstrates that our local high school ranks with the most efficient schools in Michigan. The pride which Alma citizens feel in their high school is more than justified and great credit is due Supt. Schulz for the high standards maintained in our public schools.

SMITH WINS CONTEST

Donald Smith, graduate of Alma High School in 1913 and Freshman in the college, won first place in the annual Prohibition Oratorical contest last Thursday night with a splendid oration. He will represent Alma in the big state contest.



April 9th. Smith is to be congratulated on his fine success.

Though four were entered in the contest Donald easily carried off the honors. This is the first big contest which he has yet entered and the skill on the platform which he exhibited Thursday night, augurs well for even bigger honors in the future. It is the hope of the students that he will place high in the coming state contest.

BIG HORSE SHOW

Saturday afternoon, March 27th Alma will hold the biggest horse show that Gratiot County has ever seen. The horse parade which will form at John Shick's feed barn will leave at two o'clock sharp and will pass along Superior and State streets and will be at least one and a half miles long. Free stable and feed for the horses is promised by the owners of the feed barn as well as free dinners to the exhibitors.

All exhibitors will meet at this feed barn and begin the decorating at nine o'clock in the morning.

REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

The Republicans of the Township of Pine River will hold a caucus at town hall, Forest Hill, Saturday, March 27th, 2 p. m., for the purpose of placing in nomination a township ticket and the transaction of such other business as may come before the caucus.

Signed By Order of the Committee.

AGED RESIDENT DIES

Mrs. Maples, Eighty-Eight Years of Age, Passes Away

Anne, daughter of Caleb and Elizabeth (Chapel) Maples, was born May 9, 1827, in Connecticut. Her parents moved from there to Ohio, later removing to Wayne County, Michigan. She grew to womanhood there and April 10, 1850 was united in marriage there, to David Thomas, of Dearborn, Michigan, and to their union was born five children; Martha Ann, wife of Hiram Pitts, who died several years ago; Laura Jane, who died at the age of 17 years; Olive Alida, wife of G. R. Aldrich, now deceased; Caleb A. and Thirza, now Mrs. Barney Schaub of Lafayette township.

For about five years after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Thomas lived in Wayne County, then removed to Lafayette township this county, hewing the road through which they came, and were among the earliest pioneers of Gratiot, enduring the hardships of pioneer life. Eighteen years ago Mr. Thomas passed away and his widow has lived on the old homestead for a period of 60 years. About ten days ago she contracted a severe cold and passed peacefully away of acute bronchitis on the evening of March 10, 1915, leaving one son and one daughter, aged 87 years 10 months and 1 day, 27 grandchildren, 31 great grandchildren and two great great grandchildren. Her children were with her constantly during her illness, and five minutes before her death she walked about the house and said she felt quite well.

Funeral services were conducted March 13th at the residence of Mrs. Schaub by Rev. C. L. Beebe of Ithaca. M. E. Church, interment being made in Lafayette cemetery.

WILL REPAIR BRIDGE

Saginaw Firm Lands Job to Repair Superior Street Bridge

CONTRACT CALLS FOR \$1250

New Steel Beams to Be Laid With Several Layers of Creosote Material

At a meeting of the city council last Friday night a contract was let to the Continental Bridge Co., of Saginaw for creosote covering to the bridge which spans the river on East Superior St., voting to expend \$1,250.00 for the job. Mr. Hoadley Stewart a representative of the firm landed the contract which calls for the completion of the job by April 20th.

Hitherto the bridge has simply been covered with heavy plank which have soon worn out and have been insufficient to bear the heavy traffic which daily uses this bridge. Specifications call for 7 inch steel joints laid lengthwise. Upon these will be laid a 3 in. covering of creosote plank. Two layers of tarred plank will be laid over these planks. The next layer will be a 2 inch creosote block, the spaces being filled with tar. The top covering will be a mixture of sand and tar and will measure one half inch. The sidewalk which runs along the south side of the bridge will be covered with 2 inch plank creosote planks.

Before any of the creosote is laid the whole bridge is to be scraped and painted. When the work is finished Alma will have a bridge of which she may well be proud. The work will start as soon as the new steel beams arrive.

TAKES NEW PARTNER

Charles Button Sells Half Interest in Barber Shop to E. Hamilton

Mr. Edward Hamilton, formerly of Valparaiso, and Laporte, Indiana, and for the last two months employed in an Ithaca barber shop has purchased half interest in Charles Button's barber shop. Mr. Hamilton has had several years' experience in the barber business, having been employed in several barber shops in Indiana. Mr. Hamilton will move to Alma the latter part of this week and the two young men will endeavor to give Alma one of the best three chair shops in Gratiot County.

GRATIOT Y. M. C. A.

State Secretary Caster In Alma to Revive County Organization

Charles A. Caster, State Secretary of the Y. M. C. A. is now in this city and will remain for a few days to arouse interest of Alma citizens in Y. M. C. A. work. For the past few months interest in this movement in Gratiot county has not been very great and it has been suggested by some to abandon effort to maintain a county organization. However, there are a great number of people who will back to the limit any efforts to keep the organization intact and it is for the purpose of crystallizing this sentiment that the genial State Secretary is in the city.

Had it not been for some unfortunate circumstances the local as well as the County Y. M. C. A. might have continued to be as successful as it was at the start. Secretary Caster deserves and undoubtedly will receive the heartiest support on the part of Alma citizens. Michigan has more counties organized in this cause than any state in the Union and of the fifteen counties which have been organized in Michigan not one has abandoned Y. M. C. A. work as yet. Gratiot should certainly not be the first.

IMMEDIATE AND SATISFACTORY ADJUSTMENTS

The Spinney Fire Insurance Agency has closed the account of the losses adjusted by the fire of January 10th, 1915, and the total amount figures \$21761.39. The adjustment of all of the losses except on the Union Telephone Co. exchange was made by the companies' adjusters on the ground on January 15th, 1915. General Manager Melchers of the Union Telephone Co. was too busy with other matters to settle so soon after the fire and when he had time to attend to it proofs were closed with him for a total loss of \$3,000.00. Some payments were made immediately even on the day of adjustment and drafts came along at different times afterwards in other cases. The Knights of Pythias and Pythian Sisters had a total loss under their policy of \$1,700.00, 200.00 of this amount belongs to the Pythian Sisters and the balance to the knights of Pythias.

JOHN R. WRIGHT DIES

Aged Resident Passes Away at the Home of Niece, Mrs. Rockwell. Is Buried Tuesday

John R. Wright, eighty-five years and twenty three days old passed away at the home of Harry Rockwell, corner of Grant and Center streets Sunday, March 14th. The death of Mr. Wright who was an uncle of Mrs. Rockwell marks the passing of a man who has spent a long and useful public career and private life.

Mr. Wright was Judge of Probate in Alger county for four years and later spent much of his time in Idaho. Twenty years ago he came to Gratiot county and since that time he has lived with his niece, Mrs. Rockwell. He had a wide circle of friends who will greatly miss the kindly old gentleman. Funeral services were held at the home of Mr. Rockwell Tuesday.

ITHACA MAN DIES

J. A. Todd, Prominent Citizen is Buried Thursday

John Andrew Todd was born August 29, 1885 in Columbia County, O. Later the family moved to Nelson, Ohio, and Mr. Todd was there united in marriage to Miss Anna Miller. To their union were born several children, two of whom are now living. Fifteen years after Mrs. Todd died, it Merrill, Ohio.

On February 27, 1895 Mr. Todd was married in Ohio to Miss Elizabeth Sell, and they are the parents of four children: Eleanor, Helen M., Franklin E. and Thelma E.

Nov. 24, 1907 they removed to Lafayette township, this county, where they spent three years, then removed to Ithaca. Mr. Todd has been in ill health for some time, and passed away Thursday, March 11, 1915, aged 59 years 6 months and 12 days, leaving his wife, and six children: Charles Todd of Cleveland; Elma, who is Mrs. Lee Goss, also of Cleveland; Eleanor, Helen M., Franklin E., and Thelma E., all living at home; one granddaughter, Beatrice; four sisters, Mrs. Fowler Arbuckle of Bowling Green, Ohio. Mrs. Belle Aikens of Bartlesville, Okla.; Mrs. Hannah Ward and Mrs. M. J. Apple of Lisbon, O., and Mrs. Cynthia Goss; also four brothers, Will of Lisbon, Frank of Crawford, Nebr., Harvey of Hastings, Mich., and George of Whiting, Kans.

Mr. Todd was raised a Presbyterian and is a member of the I. O. O. F. Rev. R. L. McLain officiating, and interment was made in Ithaca cemetery. The floral tributes were many and beautiful and friends everywhere expressed sympathy for his family and deep regard for the deceased.

TOWNSEND ELY BACK

Has Spent Past Four Months in New Mexico And California

REPORTS FINE TRIP

Son Ralph Being Boomed For Governorship of New Mexico

Townsend Ely returned to Alma Wednesday evening, March 10th, after spending nearly six months in New Mexico and California, having left Alma on the 21st of September to visit his son and to enjoy a vacation in a warmer climate, and upon his return reported one of the pleasantest trips of his life. Four months of the time Mr. Ely spent in Deming, New Mexico and Santa Fe and nearly two months in Los Angeles, California.

To Mr. Ely one of the most pleasant features of his trip was the realization of the fact that his son Ralph is coming to be one of the most prominent and useful men in the state of New Mexico and is openly boomed by hosts of friends for the governorship of the state at the coming election. At present Ralph, who is known to a large number of Alma people as a young man and as a student and graduate of the college and one of the finest young men who ever lived in the city, is receiver for the New Mexico Central railroad and is handling the exacting duties of this position with great skill.

During the recent election Mr. Ely directed the affairs of the work of the Republican party as State Republican Chairman so successfully that in this staunch old Democrat state a political upheaval took place, and practically the whole state went Republican, legislature and all. The independent and progressive Santa Fe New Mexican, the biggest newspaper in the state, has this to say of Townsend Ely's son: "We believe Mr. Ely is the most far-seeing politician in the Republican party. He has enough foresight to know that now is the time to play the game on the table; that the time has arrived when the voters are not going to be fooled. Mr. Ely believes that the very best kind of Republican politics now would be to play square with the people; and that the men who are going to be the leaders must play square."

"The party in New Mexico is sitting up and taking notice every time the State Chairman points his finger at a party double cross. Mr. Ely is a Republican sign post that the old guard would do well to heed."

The newspapers of that state are openly boasting the former Alma boy for the governorship and that he is raised to this high position is the hope of the large number of Alma people who claim his friendship. Mr. Ely himself was for a number of years one of the commanding figures in Michigan politics becoming State Highway Commissioner as soon as that office had been created by an act of the legislature, as well as being chosen State Senator from the 11th district to the state legislature for two terms. Following a four months' stay in the New Mexican capital Mr. Ely went to Los Angeles. Here he remained for nearly two months staying at the Rosalind Hotel. For the benefit of the many Alma people who are planning to go west this spring or summer Mr. Ely stated that he found accommodations in this hotel better than any he had enjoyed on his trip. He found that terms were very reasonable in the hotel. In fact, expenses are no greater in Los Angeles than they are in Alma while they are twenty-five per cent lower than they are in New Mexico.

While in Los Angeles Mr. Ely made many side trips to interesting points nearby. Since he left he has enjoyed the best of health and has returned to the city several years younger. Mr. Ely expressed the greatest pleasure at being home once again with friends and relatives.

Dr. Thomas C. Blaisdell returned Tuesday morning from a ten days' trip in the Upper Peninsula where he has been lecturing in the interests of the college.